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APPENDIX IV.

[*Vide* item IV on page 17]

Address by Thiru Kodardas Kalidas Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, to the Members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, assembled together at the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George ,at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 22nd January 1972.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislature,

It is my pleasant privilege to welcome you all to this joint session of the Legislature. This is the first occasion on which I am meeting you in a joint session. I greet you most warmly and pledge my support to you in the service of the people of Tamil Nadu.

2. We are meeting at a time when as a nation we can legitimately take pride in fighting for and upholding the principles of democracy and socialism. The heroism, devotion to duty and spirit of sacrifice of our armed forces will continue to inspire generations. Neither superiority in arms nor treacherous moves of the unscrupulous enemy backed by some of the ill-informed powers could help the enemy to succeed in his nefarious designs. Thanks to the valour of our armed forces and the dynamic, sober and astute leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, our commitment to democracy has been honoured. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, we are proud to say that the insulted people of this continent have not only asserted their self-respect but also vindicated their honour and strengthened the foundations of democracy. We have proved to the world that our intention at no time was territorial aggrandizement but the survival of peace and democracy in our sub-continent in general and Bangla Desh in particular. On this proud occasion, on my behalf and on behalf of all of you, I salute the memory of those brave men of the armed forces who died so that India may live. I am happy to say that the Government of Tamil Nadu have announced measures and taken steps which will give utmost relief to their dependents who are entitled to every consideration as members of our family.

3. During the last year, millions of families were obliged to take shelter in India on account of the genocide committed by the military regime of Pakistan. The whole country stood as a man to sustain these helpless millions in their time of suffering. At the same time, we note with regret that the international community, paid only lip service to the cause of these people. Continuous threats and provocative postures by West Pakistani military junta made it imperative for us to be prepared for all eventualities. Had it not been for the complete co-operation of the entire people of India, it would have been impossible to find the resources to bear these burdens. Instead of advising the military junta of West Pakistan to respect realities, some of the powers encouraged the mad gamble of this junta which ultimately led to naked aggression against India. I hope they will ere long correct their unjustified

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attitude and recognise the reality of Bangla Desh. At the same time. I am confident that I am expressing your sentiments fully when I say that as a nation we are grateful to those countries especially the U.S.S.R., which have stood by us during these troubled and difficult days.

4. The unity of the people in the recent struggle against the foreign invader has been unique and has changed the course of history. I have no doubt that in stepping up economy and in building prosperity the same unity will play a major role. The problems of peace are most important. They will have to be tackled with the same sense of unity of purpose and expedition. I am sure that in our war on poverty, this Government and the Central Government will act with the same spirit of dedication and commitment. This Government's aspirations mirror the desires of the common man. This Government re-dedicates itself to the well-being and uplift of the masses in general and the struggling people in particular.

5. During the year gone by, the State had, a good season on the agricultural front. The rainfall during the south-west monsoon was, by and large, normal excepting in parts of Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, Tiruchirappalli and Nilgiris. During the north-east monsoon, almost all districts received insufficient rains. However, the earlier rainfall and the better distribution of later rains in certain districts have specifically helped our dry land areas. It is our estimate that the production of foodgrains will reach a target of 73 lak tonnes representing an increas of 3.84 per cent over the last year's level of 70.3 lakh tonnes. This compares well with the level of 50.6 lakh tonnes in 1968-69. I need hardly point out that this has been the effect of continued and sustained emphasis on the provision of necessary inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, better seeds, more credit and better water management. Nearly 44.93 lakhs of acres were covered under high-yielding varieties of paddy in 1970-71. This represents nearly two-thirds of the area under paddy. Our target for 1971-72 is to cover 50 lakhs of acres under high-yielding varieties of paddy. We have also stepped up our emphasis on multiple cropping 12.99 lakh acres were brought under multiple cropping in 1970–71 as against 2.15 lakh acres in 1967–68. During the year, there was a sharp step-up in the demand for fertilisers. In fact, the total consumption of fertilisers has gone up to 1.73 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen, 0.72 lakh tonnes of Phosphorous and 0.51 lakh tonnes of Potassium. We have tried to improve the working of the co-operatives and increase the availability of short and medium term credit from Rs. 31.41 crores in 1966–67 to Rs. 55.00 crores in 1971–72 and the long-term credit from Rs. 2.73 crores in 1966–67 to Rs. 21.00 crores in 1971–72. The revial and renovation of the co-operative movement continue apace.

6. Pursuant to the goal of self-reliance in cotton, we have taken up an intensive programme for expansion of long staple cotton varieties to cover about 2.50 lakh acres. The development of the

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Kudumiamalai Agricultural Farm and the establishment of the Agricultural University at Coimbatore are important steps in the field of agricultural education and extension. As the House is aware, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that the small farmers and landless peasants are given adequate attention in the planning process. Small Farmers' Development Agencies and the Marginal Farmers' Development Agencies have started working in the districts of South Arcot, Madurai, Tirunelveli, North Arcot and Salem. Similarly, Dry Farming Projects have been started in Kovilpatti and Kudumiamalai.

7. It is well-known that rural electrification plays an important role in the modernisation of our countryside. In spite of the paucity of financial resources and shortage of raw materials, we have increased the total number of villages electrified from 25,000 by the end of 1966–67 to 48,137 by the end of December 1971. If the present tempo of rural electrification continues, we hope to be able to cover 58,800 villages and hamlets by the end of 1972-73. The number of pumpsets electrified in the State during the last year 1971 was 63,416. The total number of pumpsets electrified in the State would go up from 2.57 lakhs in 1966–67 to 5.74 lakhs by the end of 1971 and by the end of 1972, the total number of pumpsets electrified will be 6.34 lakhs.

8. This Government is aware of the importance of industrialisation of the State. The clearance of naptha as a feed-stock for the project for the manufacture of fertilisers at Tuticorin is an important milestone in our industrial development. The fertiliser project at Tuticorin will cost Rs. 71 crores and is expected to produce 3.52,000 tonnes of ammonia and 5,12,000 tonnes of urea. It will also sustain a Soda Ash-*cum*-Ammonium Chloride Project which is expected to cost roughly Rs. 10 crores. The project for Soda Ash will also be set up by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation and Southern Petro-Chemical Industries Corporation together. As the House is aware, a linked project which is coming up in Tuticorin is the heavy water project which was initiated with the help of the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. It is unfortunate, that a top scientist of the calibre and devotion of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai should have passed away when he was needed most. However, I am confident that this project for manufacture of heavy water will go on stream as scheduled and stand as a living monument to that great Scientist.

9. As a result of the earnest steps taken by this Government and with the assistance of Government of India and financial institutions, an investment of nearly Rs. 100 and odd crores will take place in the Tuticorin area. We are also writing to the Government of India about the urgent necessity to set up an Industrial Refinery at Tuticorin so as to rid the country of dependence on imported naptha. Simultaneously, our request for the establishment of a massive petro-chemical complex at Manali continues to be alidly reiterated. I hope that the Government of India will take an immediate decision on this very important

request. This project would enable the employment of a very large number of educated young men and at the same time help to produce adequate quantities of plastics which would incidentally decrease to an extent our reliance on imports of non-ferrous metals.

10. In regard to the Salem Steel Plant, while the Consultants have submitted their report, I regret to say that action on this project continues to be rather slow. While I am aware that there is keen interest at the highest level in the Governmnt of India in pushing through the project, I hope that this interest will be translated into expeditious action at all stages.

11. A number of letters of intent have been received as a result of the incessant efforts made by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation during the last few months—thanks to the assistance of the Union Minister for Industrial Development. The latest letter of intent which we have received is for production of 2,100 tonnes of nylon filament yarn. This is proposed to be set up in public sector. Other items covered by letters of intent are :—

B.C.T. powder, Borax and Boric Acid, Calcium Carbide, Potassium Chlorate, Cigarettes, Steering gears and Cigarette tissue. These letters of intent altogether involve a total investment of more than Rs. 21.35 crores. Action has already been taken to establish these industries in the joint sector. As has been announced already, our policy in the field of industry is realistic and we wish to blend private initiative and Governmental control through the establishment of industries in the joint sector. We will consider most earnestly and sympathetically the approach of any entrepreneur inside the country with adequate managerial resources to participate in the expeditious establishment of new industries.

12. I am happy to say that the Southern Structurals Limited which had been revived under the Government management has today been put on a more sound footing and its order books have improved. The Textools Limited which the Government have taken over, has also revived. The Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation is doing well and expects to make a profit of Rs 5.2 lakhs during 1971-72. In respect of six textile mills for which we had sought Government of India's concurrence to take over, we are still awaiting a positive response. The Small Industries Development Corporation which the Government had set up during the last year, is pursuing its policy of provision of scarce raw materials, technical consultancy and hire-purchase facilities for the purchase of machinery, besides construction of worksheds. The State Industries Promotional Corporation of Tamil Nadu has also commenced operations and will be the agency for routing incentives to industries, particularly in backward areas.

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13. This Government attaches the highest importance to the maintenance of peaceful industrial relations. While I am happy to note that Tamil Nadu has had a record of industrial peace in recent weeks there have been a few unpleasant developments. I hope and trust that the State will soon resume its steady path of peace and harmony in the industrial scene. In this context I wish to reiterate the views expressed by the Chief Minister regarding the imperative need to avert inter-union rivalry and to state that this Government believes in the policy of having one union for each industry. These unions should be led by persons chosen from amongst the workers themselves. Industrial disputes should be settled by mutual discussion and bargaining and not through confrontation and conflict.

14. During the year gone by, Government approached the problem of unemployment from a number of directions. One of the most important steps taken in this direction was the setting up of the Youth corps. The move has been hailed both inside the country and outside as imaginative. Nearly 2,000 youth corps volunteers have been recruited and trained and from the first results that are coming to me, I am confident that they are proving valuable assets to the work of social development in the State. The scheme for giving a loan of Rs. 1,000 to those trained in the Industrial Training Institutes has also been put into operation. With a view to tackling the problem of the educated unemployed, Government propose to utilise the scheme of Government of India for enabling technical entrepreneurs to start new industries. A sum of Rs. 48 lakhs has been allocated this year out of which Rs. 20 lakhs will be set apart for enabling hire-purchase of indigenous machinery, Rs. 7½ lakhs for industrial estates, Rs. 5 lakhs for commercial estates, Rs. 3 lakhs for Technician's co-operatives and Rs. 12.5 lakhs for providing Equity Capital for new industrial enterprises to be started by technically qualified persons. Besides, we have undertaken programmes for giving employment to the rural unskilled labourers through rural works projects. We have been able to secure clearance from the Government of India for an accelerated programme for rural works including the programme in chronically drought affected areas. In the current year alone, the total expenditure on these works will be Rs. 3.91 crores. Another important project which we have initiated is for the development of market complexes including roads in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs will be spent on the development of roads and market complexes in these districts.

15. Government recognise that planned development creates stresses and strains in the metropolitan areas also. This is partly due to the rush of people from the villages to the city in search of employment. While our attempts continue in the shape of modernising the country side so as to create opportunities for employment outside the metropolitan areas, we have also to tackle the problem of slums within the city. The Slum Clearance Board which we had set up last year has so far spent Rs. 2.80 crores in

building 7,000 tenements and is expected to incur an expenditure of Rs. 3.65 crores this year. We expect to expand its activities by generating its own resources and getting increased assistance from the Government of India. We also hope that the industrial units both in the Central and private sectors who employ large masses of people, will set apart adequate provisions to assist the Slum Clearance Board.

16. We have also prepared a metropolitan development plan for the next twenty years, which takes into account the problem arising from the development of Madras City. The details of this plan have to be integrated with the perspective plan for the State under preparation. The broad strategy is to develop new modes of urban growth and establish new towns around the city of Madras so as to alieviate the pressure on the City. Some of these details are under discussion with Government of India and we hope to initiate positive action on this plan expeditiously.

17. As the House is aware, Government have extended a number of facilities to the Harijans and the Backward Classes. The amounts allocated by the State Government for Harijan Welfare has increased from Rs. 3.59 crores in 1966-67 to Rs. 5.32 crores in 1971-72 notwithstanding the fact that earmarked assistance from the Government of India for these schemes has been stopped with effect from 1969–70. The total provision of funds for the specific benefit of Backward Classes has also expanded from Rs. 0.91 crores in 1966–67 to Rs. 3.03 croers in 1971–72.

18. Due to various features of the national and international economic situation, the price situation has continued to cause anxiety. As mentioned in earlier addresses to this House, and as the House is aware this will depend on the decisions that are taken at the Central level. All that is feasible on our part is to keep the level of food production as high as possible and to ensure that when demand arises there will be a system for controlled distribution of essential commodities which we can bring into action. Government have also taken a decision to establish a separate machinery under the Department of Civil Supplies to secure adequate quantities of foodgrains and other commodities and to establish buffer stocks so as to insulate the market to the extent possible from speculative influences. At the same time, I would like to reiterate on behalf of this Government, the plea that timely dicisions be taken by Government of India to import adequate quantity of industrial raw materials such as cotton and staple fibre, steel and drugs so that the price situation can be kept under control.

19. This Government believes that a co-ordinated price-wage-profit policy should be evolved in consultation with the States so that a realistic wage price structure can be produced. I would like to reiterate the view of this Government that the Centre should constantly keep in mind that its decisions on emoluments of employees have a direct impact on the emoluments of Government

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servants. The financial resources of the State Government's are under strain and do not have the same elasticity as those of the Centre.

20. The Administrative Reforms Commission and the State Planning Commission have commenced work. The Administrative Reforms Commission has set up a number of groups to examine the procedures of Government. The Planning Commission has set up a number of Task Forces to look into various aspects of the States economy, and I am confident that the reports of these two bodies will play a vital role in modernising the administration of the State and meet their economic level of development. I am also happy to note that the establishment of the State Planning Commission has been welcomed by experts both inside and outside the Government, as also by the Government of India and that it has been held forth as a model for other States to follow. I am hopeful that it will now be possible to draw up plans also at district level, which will help us particularly to step up the income of the lower-income group and accelerate the pace of economic growth.

21. In earlier meetings, the Union Planning Commission and the State Government were not able to arrive at agreed decisions on the size of the Plan of the State. However, as a result of the discussions held by the Chief Minister with the Central Planning Commission and the Union Finance Minister in December 1971, it has been possible to arrive at certain agreed conclusions on the Plan for 1972–73. It is now expected that the agreed Plan of the State for the current year will be of the order of Rs. 1,15 crores and for 1972–73 it will be Rs. 1,17 crores.

22. You have been aware of the heavy financial burden arising from the repayment of debt to the Government of India. During the Five-Year Plan period, our total repayment to the Government of India comes to nearly Rs. 1,54.9 crores as against the anticipated loan from the Government of India of only Rs. 1,41 crores. This reverse flow of aid from the Centre to the State is one of the primary reasons for the financial stringency facing the State. Taking the year 1971–72 alone, our total repayment has come to a high figure of Rs. 43.03 crores on account of principal and Rs. 21.83 crores on account of interest. This has to be compared with the total Central assistance of Rs. 40.40 crores from the Government of India. The continuance of this imbalance in the flow of resources to the State has been high-lighted by the Chief Minister in his speech to the House while presenting the Interim Budget for 1971–72. I hope and trust that the Central Finance Ministry will set a foot an independent enquiry into the problem of debt burden of the States so that the existing debt is consolidated and that such part of debt as relates to financially unproductive but socially beneficial expenditure be written off as grants or converted into soft loans. This is only fit and proper because the benefits of these investments accrue not only to the State Governments but also to the country as a whole.

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23. In this short session, while you do not have a heavy agenda of legislation, you have the important Constitution (Twenty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1971 coming up for your approval.

24. Hon'ble Members are aware that we have to travel a long way before even the minimum requirements of the entire population can be met. It is only through the combined efforts of all of you that this difficult task can be fulfilled. This House has always upheld the highest norms of democracy and set an example of a disciplined and informed democracy. I am beholden to all of you for your continued co-operation and generous understanding. I have no doubt that you will rededicate yourselves to the task of reconstruction with the same fervour for values and welfare of our people and vie with one another in upholding the noble traditions of this House. May I convey my best wishes for the success of your efforts ?

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS